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(54) **Method and apparatus for compensating for color in color images.**

(57) The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for compensating for color in color images for use in an image processing field which is employed for three dimension computer graphics and so on. Conventionally, a color compensation method for color images for use in this field has not made any compensation between a lightness of a texture itself representing a pattern on the surface of an object and an intensity of the surface of the object derived by an intensity calculation when an image is generated, so that the generated image has been extremely unnatural. The present invention performs a color compensation for color images by making a luminance of texture data coincident with an intensity derived by an intensity calculation. Also, a lightness compensation is performed for a color image according to a display scene. From measuring results of color changes of plural colors in a uniform color space, a color change of arbitrary texture data under a chromatic color light source is represented and compensated for.

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPENSATING FOR COLOR IN COLOR IMAGES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method and an apparatus for compensating for color in color images in the image processing field. Conventionally, in the three-dimension computer graphics field, any compensation has not been made between a luminance of a texture itself representing a pattern on the surface of an object and an intensity of the surface of the object derived by an intensity calculation when an image is generated. For this reason, a generated image has a lightness different from that of the original object and therefore appears awkward or unnatural. Also, display characteristics of display apparatus has not been considered with respect to generation of images, which results in displaying unnatural images having a changed hue. Further, when a colored light source is used, there is not provided a method for representing a change in color of a texture, so that natural images have not been generated under such colored light source.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a definite formula representing a relationship between an intensity of an object derived by an intensity calculation and a lightness or a luminance of a texture by the use of a uniform color space, to thereby generate an image close to a photograph.

To achieve the above object, the present invention employs the following methods. In the discussion below, the luminance and lightness are assumed to be interchangeable with each other by a color-space conversion.

Color image data is converted to a uniform color space, and a luminance of an object is calculated from a ratio of an intensity on the surface of the object derived by an intensity calculation to a maximal intensity, the reflectance of the object and the luminance of a standard white.

When a lightness of a surface irradiated with a chromatic color reference light is calculated from a lightness of the surface irradiated with an achromatic color reference light, such lightness is calculated by a standard white irradiated with the achromatic and chromatic color reference lights and a mapping representing a displacement amount of an arbitrary color in a color space which is calculated based on chromaticity coordinates of a standard color patch.

When the lightness of color image data is to be changed, a saturation is changed in proportion to a changing rate of the lightness within a range which does not exceed the lightness of the standard white irradiated with the chromatic color reference light, or the saturation is decreased in proportion to the changing rate of the lightness.

When a range of a display luminance of output images to be displayed is to be compensated for, the display luminance of an image output apparatus is calculated from a median display luminance and a maximal display luminance and a minimal display luminance and a luminance of color image data.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing an embodiment of a method and an apparatus for compensating for color in color image according to the present invention;
 Fig. 2 is a diagram showing how an intensity is calculated by a mutual reflection;
 Figs. 3A and 3B are diagrams showing the coordinates of a standard color patch in a color space irradiated with an achromatic color reference light and a chromatic color reference light;
 Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an example of measuring a lightness, a saturation and a hue of a standard color patch having a lightness of 70 when irradiated with a chromatic color reference light T_c ; and
 Fig. 5 is a diagram representing an example of handling a saturation which may be needed by a change in lightness.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An embodiment of a method and an apparatus for compensating for color in color images according to the present invention will hereinafter be explained with reference to the accompanying drawings. Fig. 1

shows an embodiment of a method and an apparatus for compensating color in color images according to the present invention. Fig. 2 shows how an intensity is calculated by a mutual reflection. Figs. 3A and 3B are diagrams showing the coordinates of a standard color patch in a color space irradiated with an achromatic color reference light and a chromatic color reference light. Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an example of measuring a lightness, a saturation and a hue of a standard color patch having a lightness of 70 when irradiated with a chromatic color reference light Tc. Fig. 5 is a diagram representing an example of handling a saturation which may be needed by a change in lightness.

A color conversion unit 1 converts the coordinates of each pixel of texture data previously inputted by an image inputting apparatus such as a scanner to a uniform color space. The uniform color space is defined as a space in which a difference between every two chromaticity points is all equivalent. In this embodiment, a CIELAB uniform color space is given as an example of the uniform color space and the texture data is assumed to be represented by an RGB color system, wherein R, G and B designate coordinates respectively representing red, green and blue components of respective pixels of an image.

The color conversion unit 1 converts data in the RGB color system through an XYZ color system to L*, a*, and b* which is one of the uniform color spaces. A series of these conversions are given by the following formulae (1) and (2), wherein L* represents a lightness, and a* and b* together represent a hue and a saturation. The hue is given by $\tan^{-1}(b^*/a^*)$, and the saturation by $(a^{*2} + b^{*2})^{1/2}$. Further, X, Y and Z represent tristimulus values represented by the XYZ color system, wherein Y corresponds to the luminance.

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6067 & 0.1736 & 0.2001 \\ 0.2988 & 0.5868 & 0.1144 \\ 0 & 0.0661 & 1.1150 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R \\ G \\ B \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots\dots (1)$$

$$L^* = 116(Y/Y_0)^{1/3} - 16$$

$$a^* = 500[(X/X_0)^{1/3} - (Y/Y_0)^{1/3}]$$

$$b^* = 200[(Y/Y_0)^{1/3} - (Z/Z_0)^{1/3}] \quad (2)$$

where X_0 , Y_0 and Z_0 represents values X, Y and Z for the standard white.

Next, an intensity processing unit 2 calculates an intensity by the use of data indicative of the shape of an object, the reflectance of the surface of the object, which is one of attribute data representing optical characteristics, and light source data. One of methods for calculating the intensity may be effected by mutual reflection.

The intensity calculation by mutual reflection calculates an intensity of the surface of an object from the position, shape and light emitting characteristics of light sources, the position and area of the object which are included in shape data of the object, and optical characteristics representing a condition of the surface which is an attribute of the object. Such calculation of an intensity of the surface of an object is achieved by first calculating an intensity by directly emitted light defined by light sources and thereafter calculating an intensity by mutual reflections between objects which is an indirect light.

Fig. 2 shows an intensity calculation by mutual reflection. In Fig. 2, a shape of an object is represented by a rectangle. The unit of the intensity calculation is called "a patch". It is assumed that a patch 22 is provided with an intensity by a direct light emitted from a light source 21. Also, an intensity by an indirect light is mutually given between the patch 22 and a patch 23. The intensity by the direct light is determined by the magnitude of the light source 21 and the distance between the light source 21 and the patch 22. For example, assuming that the magnitude of the light source 21 is represented by G, and the distance between the light source 21 and the patch 22 by $r_{21,22}$, when the magnitude of the light source is inversely proportional to the square of a distance, a direct light intensity is given by the following formula (3):

$$I_{\text{direct}} = G / (r_{21,22}^2 \cdot r_{21,22}) \quad (3)$$

An intensity $I_{23,23}$ by the indirect light from the patch 23 to the patch 22 is determined by an intensity I_{23} of the patch 23, a reflectance ρ_{23} of the surface of the patch 23, an area A_{23} , an angle ϕ formed by a line 26 and the normal of the patch 23, an angle ψ formed by the line 26 and the normal of the patch 22, and a distance $r_{22,23}$, as given by the following formula (4):

$$I_{23,22} = I_{23} \cdot \rho_{23} \cdot A_{23} \cos \psi \cdot \cos \phi / (r_{22,23}^2 \cdot r_{22,23}) \quad (4)$$

An intensity to the patch 22 is determined by the sum of an intensity by the direct light and an intensity by indirect lights from all patches. Since the indirect light is generated by mutual reflections, an intensity

calculation for the indirect light is performed by iterative calculations until a convergency is gotten.

As the results of the intensity calculations, it is assumed that a maximum intensity value is expressed by I_{\max} , an intensity of a patch i by I_i , and a reflectance of the surface of the patch i by ρ_i . If the value Y for the maximal intensity value is replaced by a value Y_0 which is the value Y for the standard white, a value Y_{in} for a light incident to the patch i is given by the following formula (5):

$$Y_{in} = (I_i/I_{\max}) \cdot Y_0 \quad (5)$$

A value Y_i , which is a value Y for a light reflected by the patch i , is equal to the product of the value Y for the incident light and the reflectance ρ_i of the patch i , as shown by the following formula (6):

$$Y_i = \rho_i \cdot Y_{in} \\ = \rho_i \cdot (I_i/I_{\max}) \cdot Y_0 \quad (6)$$

Next, reference is made to a color space mapping unit 4. In this embodiment, chromatic and achromatic color reference lights, the standard white and standard color patches are employed to calculate a mapping which represents a displacement amount of an arbitrary color in the color space. For the standard color patches, a plurality of color patches are employed which are uniformly distributed in the uniform color space. In this embodiment, a standard color patch having a lightness of 70 selected from these standard color patches, is given as an example. Image data generated when the standard white is irradiated with an achromatic color reference light T_n and a chromatic color reference light T_c is represented by the CIELAB uniform color space as $(L^*_{\max}, 0, 0)$ and (L^*_w, a^*_w, b^*_w) , respectively. Also, image data generated when the standard color patch having a lightness of 70 is irradiated with an achromatic color reference light T_n and a chromatic color reference light T_c is represented by the chromaticity coordinates as (L^*_n, a^*_n, b^*_n) and (L^*_c, a^*_c, b^*_c) , respectively. Figs. 3A and 3B shows the coordinates of the standard color patch in the color space irradiated with the achromatic and chromatic color reference lights. Also, Fig. 4 shows an example of measuring a lightness, a saturation and a hue when the standard color patch having a lightness of 70 is irradiated with the chromatic color reference light T_c .

In the color space mapping unit 4, a mapping $s(\theta)$ is defined such that $(L^*_{\max}, 0, 0)$, (L^*_w, a^*_w, b^*_w) , (L^*_n, a^*_n, b^*_n) and (L^*_c, a^*_c, b^*_c) satisfy the formula (7). Assuming that θ is an angle extending over the both sides of a reference plane which links the chromaticity coordinates of the chromatic color light on the standard color patch irradiated with the chromatic color light and an achromatic color axis, as shown in Fig. 3B. The mapping $s(\theta)$ can be approximated, for example, as expressed by the following formula (8), due to a distortion of the color space caused by an irradiation with the chromatic color light. References θ_0 and m designate values representing the color purity of the chromatic color light source T_c which are constants determined by experimental results.

$$L^*_c = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot L^*_n \\ a^*_c = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot a^*_n + s(\theta) \cdot (L^*_n/L^*_{\max}) \cdot a^*_w \\ b^*_c = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot b^*_n + s(\theta) \cdot (L^*_n/L^*_{\max}) \cdot b^*_w \quad (7)$$

$$s(\theta) = \begin{cases} 1 + m & (\theta \leq \theta_0) \\ 1 & (\theta > \theta_0) \end{cases} \quad \dots\dots (8)$$

Further, in the color space mapping unit 4, (L^*_t, a^*_t, b^*_t) on the surface, which is irradiated with the chromatic color reference light T_c , is calculated by the following formula (9) based on (L^*, a^*, b^*) converted by the color conversion unit 1:

$$L^*_t = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot L^* \\ a^*_t = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot a^* + s(\theta) \cdot (L^*/L^*_{\max}) \cdot a^*_w \\ b^*_t = (L^*_w/L^*_{\max}) \cdot b^* + s(\theta) \cdot (L^*/L^*_{\max}) \cdot b^*_w \quad (9)$$

In a color compensation unit 5, (L^*_t, a^*_t, b^*_t) calculated in the color space mapping unit 4 is compensated for the lightness by the use of a lightness compensation coefficient β which is determined according to an intensity distribution of the surface of an object. Since the actual luminance of an image is varied depending upon image output characteristics of a display (7), the coefficient β is given by the following formula (10) with a coefficient representing a change in luminance being designated by α . As shown in the formula (10), the coefficient β is multiplied with Y_0 .

$(L^*_{\text{new}}, a^*_{\text{new}}, b^*_{\text{new}})$ after the lightness compensation is calculated by the formulae (11), with the saturation being proportional to a lightness changing rate such that $(L^*_{\text{new}}, a^*_{\text{new}}, b^*_{\text{new}})$ will not exceed the lightness value L^*_w of the standard white irradiated with the reference light:

$$\begin{aligned}
Y_{new} &= \alpha \cdot Y_i \\
&= \rho_i \cdot (l_i / l_{max}) \cdot Y_0 \\
&= \beta \cdot Y_0
\end{aligned}$$

$$B = \alpha \cdot \rho_i \cdot (l_i / l_{max}) \quad (10)$$

$$L_{new}^* = \min(\beta^{1/3} \cdot (L_t^* + 16) - 16, L_w^*) \quad 5$$

$$a_{new}^* = k \cdot a_t^*$$

$$b_{new}^* = k \cdot b_t^* \quad (11)$$

The lightness compensation coefficient β in the formula (10) should have a value greater than one for increasing the lightness and a value less than one for decreasing the lightness. Also, $\min()$ is a function for returning the smaller one of two arguments, and the coefficient k in the formula (11) is defined by the following formula (12):

$$k = L_{new}^* / L_t^* \quad (12)$$

Alternatively, the coefficient k may be defined by the formula (13). In either case of defining the coefficient k by the formula (12) or (13), it is possible to solely change the saturation and the lightness without changing the hue, wherein the saturation is changed in proportion to a lightness change. A saturation S_{new} is calculated by a formula (14) according to a saturation compensation. Fig. 5 shows an example of a saturation handling which may be needed in consequence of a change in lightness.

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$$k = \frac{L_{new}^*}{L_t^*} \quad (L_{new}^* \leq L_t^*)$$

$$\frac{(100 - L_{new}^*)}{(100 - L_t^*)} \quad (L_{new}^* \geq L_t^*) \quad 25$$

$$\dots\dots (13)$$

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$$S_{new} = (a_{new}^{*2} + b_{new}^{*2})^{1/2} \quad (14)$$

In Fig. 5, $(L_{new1}^*, a_{new1}^*, b_{new1}^*)$ represents a compensation for increasing the lightness of the original (L_t^*, a_t^*, b_t^*) , and $(L_{new2}^*, a_{new2}^*, b_{new2}^*)$ a compensation for decreasing the lightness of the same.

A display luminance conversion unit 6 performs a color compensation in accordance with characteristics of a display 7. Such color compensation is achieved by the coefficient α employed in the formula (10). To determine α in the formula (10), display characteristics of the display 7 is used. The intensity of a patch is designated by I_i . Also, as the display characteristics, a maximum display luminance value of the display 7 is designated by $V_{disp, max}$, a minimum display luminance value of the same by $V_{disp, min}$, a maximum intensity of a display scene by $I_{scene, max}$, and a minimum intensity of the same by $I_{scene, min}$. Then, the maximum and minimum intensities of the display scene are determined, for example, by a formula (15), as a method of matching them with the maximum and minimum luminance of the display 7. Alternatively, there is also a method of determining the maximum and minimum intensities of the display scene so as to make a median value $I_{scene, mean}$ of the intensity of the display scene equal to a median display luminance $V_{disp, mean}$ of the display 7. The latter method is determined as shown in the formula (16).

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$$\alpha = \left[\frac{V_{disp, max} - V_{disp, min}}{I_{scene, max} - I_{scene, min}} \cdot (I_i - I_{scene, min})^{V_{disp, min}} \right] /$$

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$$V_{disp, max} \quad (15)$$

$$\alpha = (I_i / I_{scene, mean}) \cdot (V_{disp, mean} / V_{disp, max}) \quad (16)$$

As explained above, the present embodiment can produce effects as described below:

A lightness of texture data can be compensated for in accordance with the result of an intensity calculation with respect to the surface of an object, based on a ratio of an intensity to a maximum intensity, a reflectance of the object and the luminance of the standard white.

A lightness on a surface irradiated with a chromatic color reference light can be derived from a lightness on the surface irradiated with an achromatic color reference light by the use of a mapping

representing a displacement amount of an arbitrary color in the color space which is calculated on the basis of the chromaticity coordinates of a standard color patch which is being irradiated with the chromatic and achromatic color reference lights.

Further, for changing a lightness of data representing a color image, an image processing method is provided which changes a saturation in proportion to a lightness changing rate, whereby a discrepancy in hue can be suppressed when a lightness of color image data inputted from an image inputting apparatus such as a color scanner is to be changed.

Furthermore, a natural image can be displayed on an image output unit by providing display characteristics of the image output unit.

The present invention is not limited to the above described embodiment, and a variety of modifications can be made based on the spirits of the present invention. Therefore, these modifications will not be excluded from the scope of the present invention.

15 Claims

1. A method for compensating for color in color images in a combination comprising a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue; an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of the surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of the intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object; and a display luminance conversion (6) unit for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue:

said method being characterized by calculating a luminance of said object from a ratio of the intensity of said object to said maximum intensity, both calculated by said intensity processing unit, a reflectance of said attribute data of said object, and a luminance of a standard white.

2. A method for compensating for color in color images in a combination comprising a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue; an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of a surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object; and a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue:

said method being characterized by calculating a lightness of a surface irradiated with a chromatic color reference light, when it is derived from a lightness of said surface irradiated with an achromatic color reference light, by a mapping representative of a displacement amount of an arbitrary color in a color space, said mapping being calculated based upon chromaticity coordinates of a standard white and a standard color patch when they are irradiated with said achromatic and chromatic color reference lights.

3. A method for compensating for color in color images in a combination comprising a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue; an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of a surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object; and a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue:

said method being characterized by changing, for changing lightness of said color image data, its saturation in proportion to a lightness changing rate within a range in which said lightness of the color image data does not exceed a lightness value of a standard white when irradiated with a chromatic color reference light, or by decreasing its saturation in proportion to the lightness changing rate.

4. A method for compensating for color in color images in a combination comprising a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue; an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of a surface of an object, a maximum

intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object; and a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue:

said method being characterized by calculating, for compensating for a display luminance range of an output image, a display luminance of said display (7) from a maximum display luminance and a minimum display luminance of said display (7), a median value of the display luminance and a luminance of color image data.

5. An apparatus for compensating for color in color images comprising:

a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue;

an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of the surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object;

a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue; and

a luminance calculation unit (3) for calculating a luminance of said object from a ratio of the intensity of said object to said maximum intensity, both calculated by said intensity processing unit, a reflectance of said attribute data of said object, and a luminance of a standard white.

6. An apparatus for compensating for color in color images comprising:

a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue;

an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of a surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object;

a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue, and

a color space mapping unit (4) for calculating a mapping representative of a displacement amount of an arbitrary color in a color space on the basis of chromaticity coordinates of a standard white and a standard color patch when they are irradiated with said achromatic and chromatic color reference lights.

7. An apparatus for compensating for color in color images comprising:

a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue;

an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of a surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of said surface of said object; and

a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by the use of said lightness, said saturation and said hue; and

a color compensation unit (5) for changing lightness of said color image data by changing its saturation in proportion to a lightness changing rate within a range in which said lightness of the color image data does not exceed a lightness value of a standard white when irradiated with a chromatic color reference light, or by decreasing its saturation in proportion to the lightness changing rate.

8. An apparatus for compensating for color in color images comprising:

a color conversion unit (1) for performing a color conversion on color image data to calculate a luminance, a lightness, a saturation and a hue;

an intensity processing unit (2) for calculating an intensity of the surface of an object, a maximum intensity thereof, a maximum intensity of a display scene, a minimum intensity of said display scene, and a median value of the intensity of said display scene by the use of shape data representative of a shape of said object, light source data representative of a position and light emitting characteristics of a light source and attribute data representative of optical property of the surface of the object; and

a display luminance conversion unit (6) for converting to a display luminance of a display (7) by compensating for said lightness, saturation and hue with a maximum display luminance and a minimum display luminance of said display (7), a median value of the display luminance and a luminance of color image data.

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FIG. 1

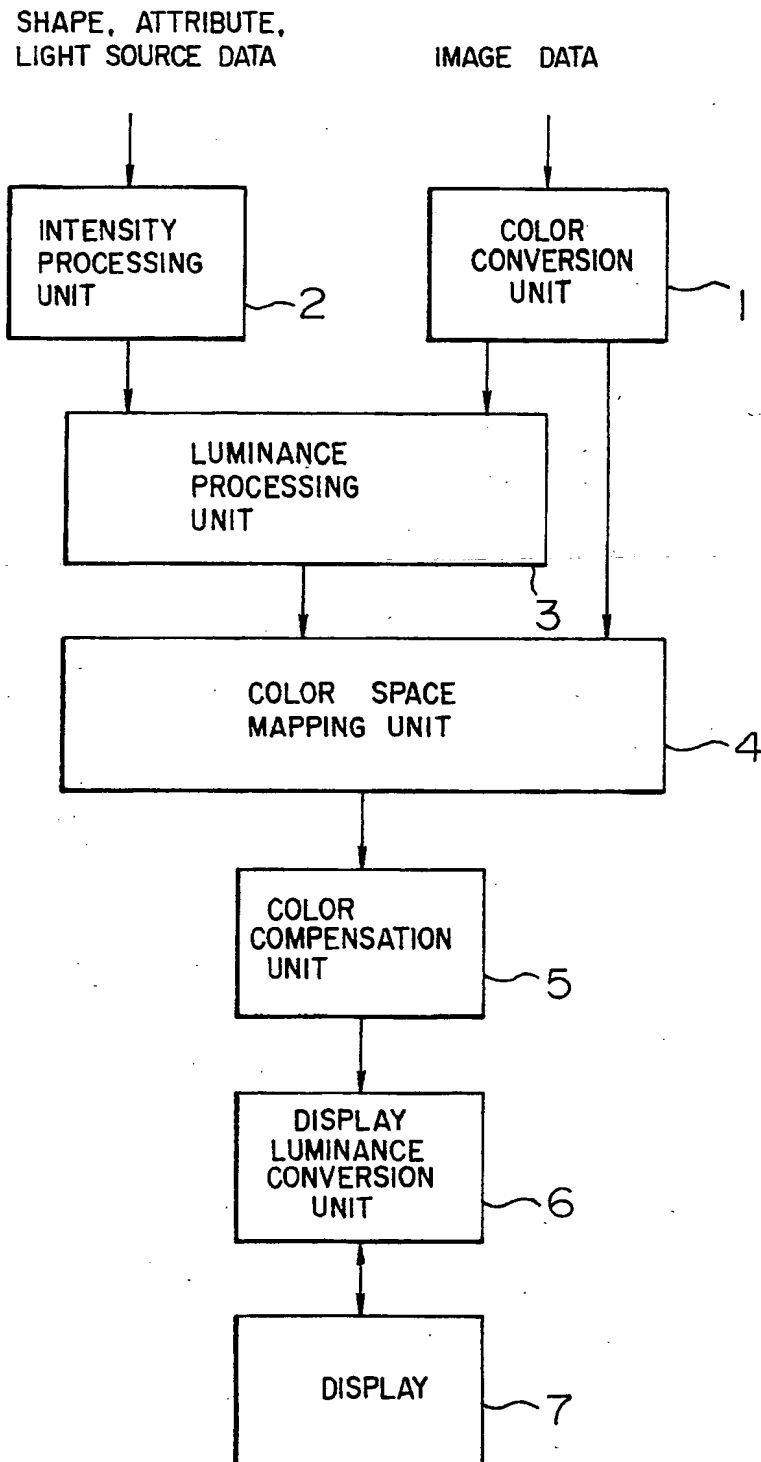


FIG. 2

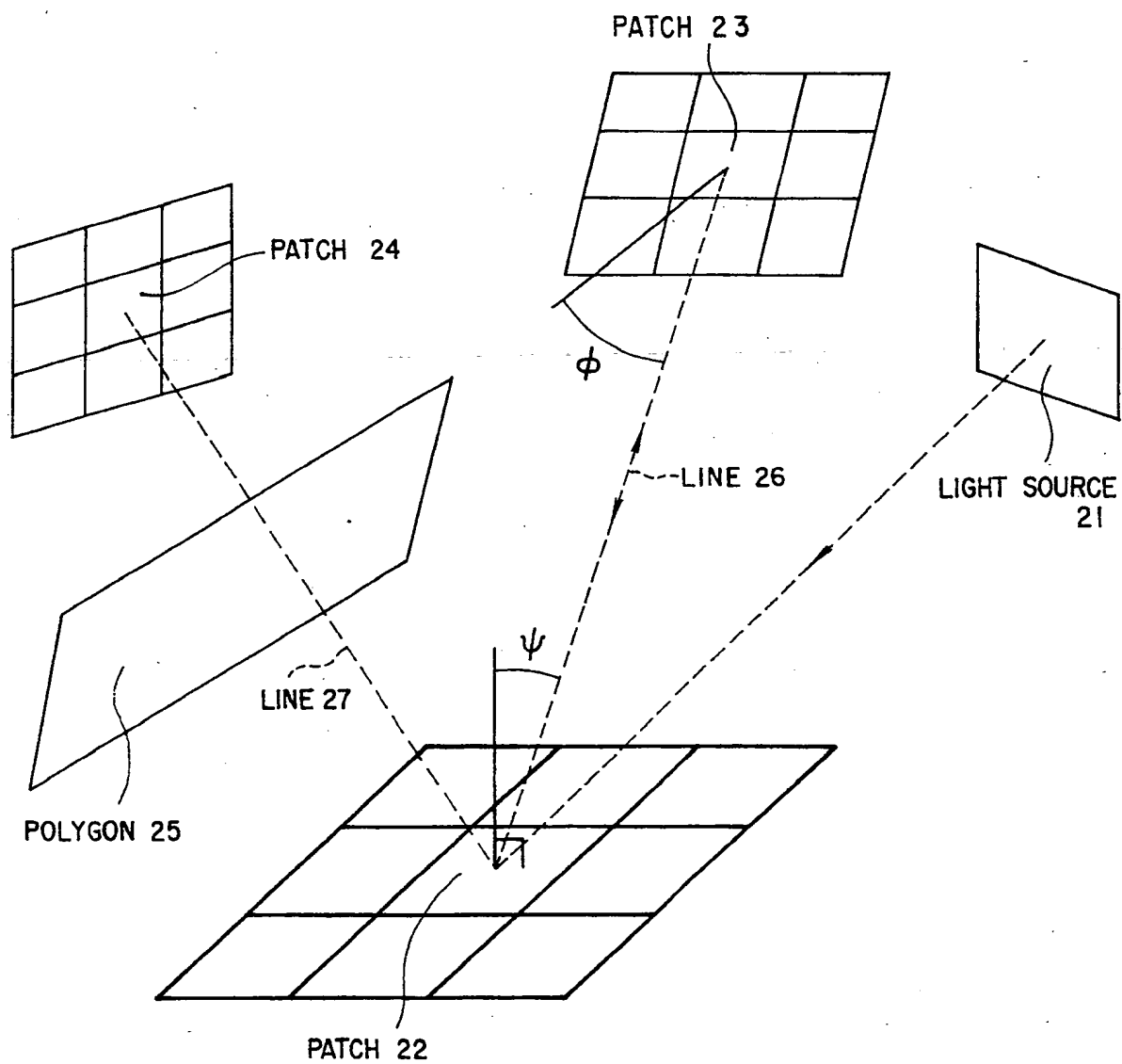


FIG. 3A

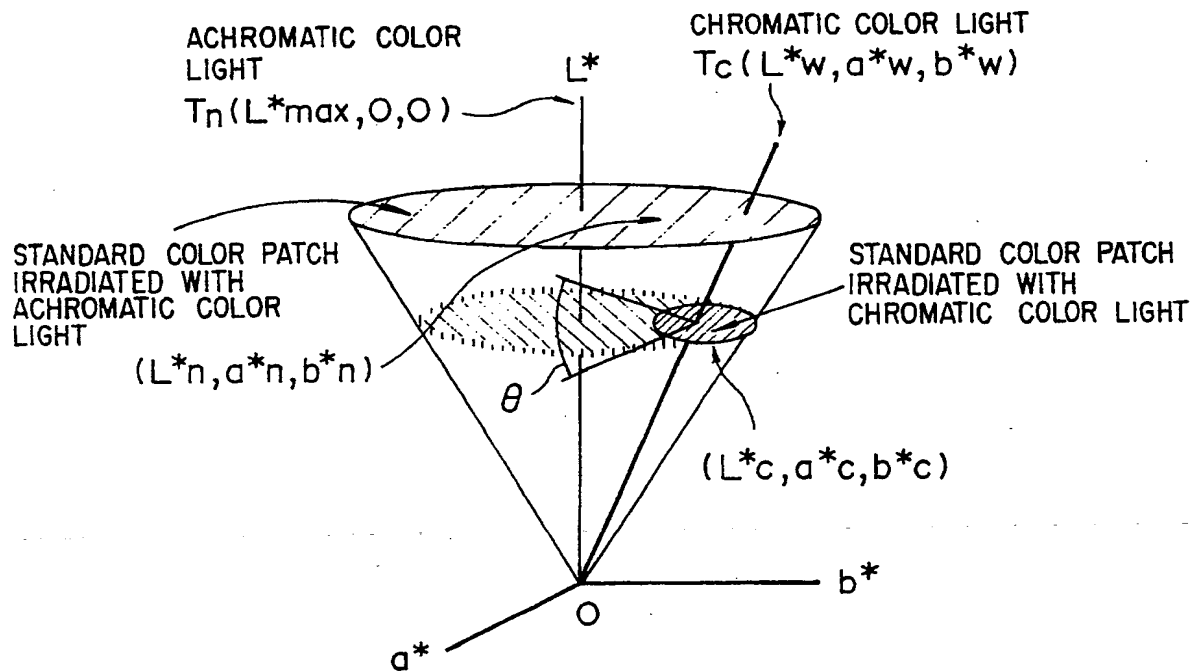


FIG. 3B

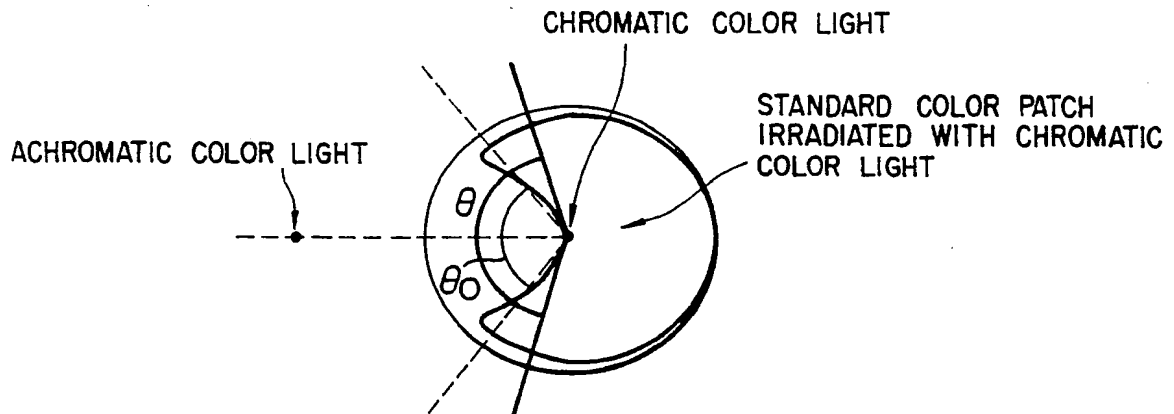


FIG. 4

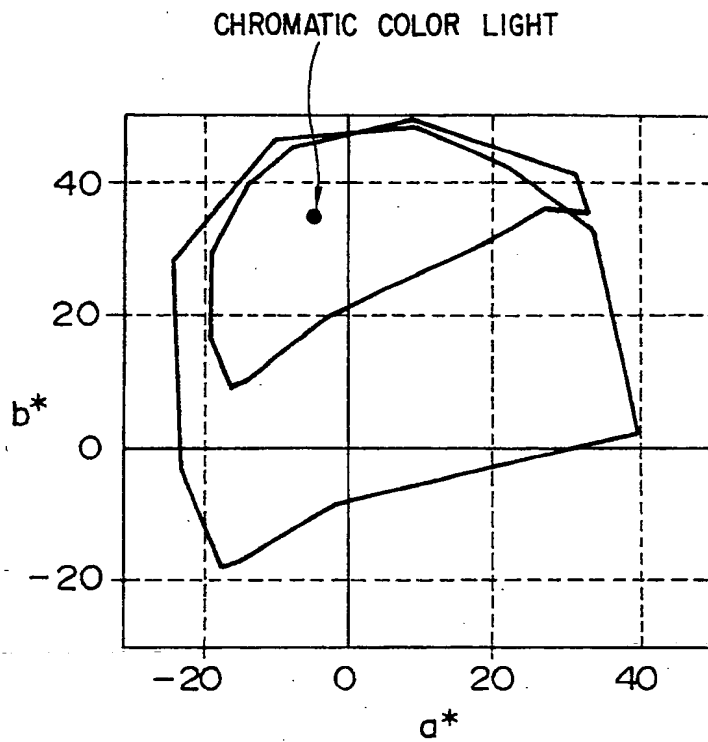


FIG. 5

